



File Code: 1950

Date: August 19, 2013

Dear Interested Stakeholder,

I have released for public review an environmental assessment (EA) and draft Decision Notice (DN)/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed Red Mountain Flume/Chessman Reservoir Project on the Helena Ranger District, Helena National Forest. The purpose of this project is to reduce the likelihood of physical damage to the municipal watershed infrastructure (flume/reservoir) in the event of a wildfire or falling trees. A combination of ground based mechanical and hand treatment methods would be used to accomplish this project. An exception from two Forest Plan standards would be necessary to implement this project. This project is subject to the Predecisional Administrative Review Process (Objection Process) pursuant to 36 CFR 218, subparts A and B. The EA with appendices and draft DN/FONSI can be reviewed on the Forest web page at:

www.fs.usda.gov/projects/helena/landmanagement/projects

Objections will only be accepted from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project during scoping or other designated opportunity for public comment in accordance with §218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunities. Objections, including attachments, must be filed via mail, fax, email, hand-delivery, express delivery, or messenger service (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays) to: : Objection Reviewing Officer, Northern Region, Federal Building, 200 East Broadway, P.O. Box 2779, Missoula, MT 59087; FAX: 406-329-3347 or electronically with an email to appeals-northern-regional-office@fs.fed.us Please type "Flume Chessman Objection" in the subject line.

Objections must be submitted within 45 calendar days following the publication in the *Independent Record*-newspaper of record. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer pursuant to §218.9. The regulations prohibit extending the time to file an objection.

The objection must contain the minimum content requirements specified in §218.8(d) and incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §218.8(b). All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

At a minimum an objection must include the following (36 CFR 218.8(d)): 1) The objector's name and address, with a telephone number, if available; 2) a signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for Email may be filed with the objection); 3) when multiple names are listed



on an objection, identification of the lead objector (verification of the identity of the lead objector shall be provided upon request); **4)** the name of the proposed project, the name and title of the Responsible Official, and the name(s) of the National Forest(s) and/or Ranger District(s) on which the proposed project will be implemented; and **5)** a description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and **6)** a statement that demonstrates connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project or activity and the content of the objection.

If you have question or need additional information please contact Heather DeGeest, Acting District Ranger at 406-449-5490.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'William Avey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

WILLIAM AVEY
Forest Supervisor

cc: Heather R Degeest, Jan Fauntleroy, Scott B Johnson